

NICARAGUA AFFAIR.

Great Britain's Ultimatum on the Bluefields Trouble.

Satisfaction for Wrong to British Subjects First and Discussion of the Treat Later.

One thing at which the United States Government has taken umbrage, in the ultimatum of the British Government, is the phrase, "not a citizen of any American state," in the stipulation of a commission to assess the losses and damages sustained in the Mosquito reserve owing to the action of the Nicaraguan authorities. The whole sentence in which the obnoxious phrase occurs reads as follows: "Such commission to be composed of a British representative, a Nicaraguan representative, and a jurist, not a citizen of any American state, to be selected by agreement between the Nicaraguan Government and the Government of Her Majesty, and, failing such agreement, by the President of the Swiss Republic, the findings of the commission to be by majority and the awards to be final, and to be paid within three months of the conclusion of their labors." Upon this cause of offense a Washington dispatch says:

"This phrase was thought to be an explicit declaration by England that she declined to recognize any force in the Monroe doctrine and to be a gratuitous reflection upon the United States. The intention to cast any reflection upon the United States was promptly disavowed by Lord Kimberley, through one of his Under Secretaries, and it is said that the meaning of that unfortunate sentence and the intentions of the British Government have been misconstrued. As ordinarily employed and understood by the British Foreign Office, the phrase 'American State' is limited in application to the smaller republics of Central and South America. It was these republics which Great Britain desired to exclude from having a casting vote."

In view of the news already given, and what may be expected by succeeding mails, the following condensed abstract of the ultimatum of Lord Kimberley, Secretary of the British Foreign Office, will be important to readers. It is addressed to Senor Don Modesto Barrios, Minister of Nicaragua, and opens by saying that Her Majesty's Government had carefully considered the voluminous documents inclosed in his note of November 22, communicated in justification of the proceedings of the Nicaragua Government in regard to Mr. Hatch, British Consul, and certain other British subjects who were arrested in August last in the Mosquito reserve, imprisoned and expelled from Nicaragua not only without any form of trial, but without any communication to them of charges against them, so as to afford them opportunity of absolving themselves.

Before proceeding to examine the statements in the documents, Lord Kimberley observes that although Mr. Hatch was not, seriously speaking, an officer in Her Majesty's consular service, yet, when the Nicaragua authorities treated him as such so long as it suited their convenience, they might as a matter of ordinary courtesy have communicated with Her Majesty's Government before resorting to so extreme a measure as the arrest of that gentleman. A list of eleven British subjects who were arrested besides Mr. Hatch, also of four said to be British subjects, is given by Lord Kimberley. The object of much that is contained in the papers communicated by the Nicaragua Government appeared to be to connect the British subjects arrested with the disturbance that took place in the Mosquito reserve in July last. Nine of them including Mr. Hatch had made a sworn statement that they did not in any way, directly or indirectly, participate in or encourage riots in the reserve. Another, who was in prison three days and was released on the intervention of the captain of the United States ship Marblehead, was in ignorance of the cause of his arrest and exile. On the other hand the testimony brought against these men was of a hearsay



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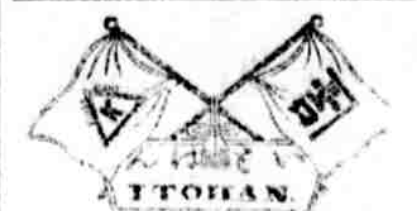
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